

A scenic photograph of a stone bridge with three arches crossing a river. The bridge is made of weathered stone and is surrounded by lush greenery and trees. The water is calm, reflecting the bridge and the surrounding landscape.

The Kingswood Legionnaires' Newsletter

A New Spiritual Home?

Welcome one and all to the September edition newsletter, in which you'll find news way above and beyond your wildest imagination. I am of course referring mainly to our magnificent result in the team event held at Bradford-on-Avon last month (*see full report on page 2*). So, now that we appear to have settled into this venue and with many more BoA matches ahead of us, it's probably fair to say that BoA has become our new "spiritual home", replacing Woolverton. Hence the new header image. Like any river venue it has its good points and its bad points, the latter being walkers, dogs and boats. However, the good points outweigh these trivialities and include ample nearby parking, easy access to the river, pleasant scenery and relatively good fishing, or at least good fishing potential. It gets an eight out of ten from me... but what do you think?

Match Results

The Crane, Keynsham, June 21st Traditionally our first match of the season is an inter-club event with Bristol Post Office. This year was no different except it was a BPO match and so they were responsible for running it, which they did very well. Conditions were typical for early summer with low levels and hardly any flow and so it always going to be small fish or bust. A simple "up in the water" light wag & mag rig was my chosen method and proved to be the right decision on the day. A 5lb-2oz catch of small roach and chublets was all that was needed to leave the rest of the field struggling to clear the starting blocks. Alan Maggs' valiant effort produced 2lb-11oz for the Kingswood Legion runner-up position, although it was a PO angler who took the second place purse with the help of a small bream from the end peg in the ash-tip field.

Riverside Drive, Chippenham, July 12th A new venue for us and an alternative to Monkton Park, which proved to be very interesting. Car parking was just alongside the river and access was just over a short field, which is exactly how we like it. This is a very nice stretch of river with winding bends, overhanging trees and a few deep holes. It screams chub and no doubt we'll find some when

the river is in the right condition. On the day however, it was very low, clear and flowless (made up word), which made presentation difficult and anything other than small fish were hard to find. Reports of double figure weights during the mid-week evening matches confirmed that good sized fish do live there, so we do have some hopeful possibilities to look forward to in the future. A stoic performance by Bob Hole showed how it's done by targeting the big perch. The old stalwart veteran brought a total of 5lb-4.5oz of the stripy blighters to the net, fleecing the rest of us and adding a few more bucks to his never-ending holiday experience. Next up and too close for comfort was Bill Croom with 5lb, which also included some nice perch.

Whitehouse Farm, Earthcott Green, August 9th This inter-club match with Alcove AC was confined to George's lake only, due to very low levels on Margaret's Lake, which was a real pity. George's contains some very large carp and they have grown to the point where it's virtually impossible to get them out. Also, this lake doesn't fish well under pressure. Many carp were hooked and lost and some pole damage was inflicted on the luckless Alan Maggs, pegged behind the island area. Bob Hole lost a shed-full, the Legion was second but at least Johnny Mack came out of it with some dosh.

Kingswood RBL AC Strikes Gold!

The Grand Inter-Club, Barton Farm, August 16th

This well organised match, run by Bill Turner of Airsprung AA, was the first of its kind to be staged at BoA and as far as the Legion are concerned it was a resounding success. The draw was held at the Kings Arms, Hilperton, where a delicious hearty breakfast was served up and much banter was duly shared. Potentially, results were always going to be decided on the draw, as the bream pegs were said to be producing. As luck would have it, 4 out of our contingent of 6 Legionnaires drew within striking distance of the honeypot. With luck on our side we made haste to the venue. I drew peg 2, which is on the high bank and with a depth of just 7ft in front of me is considered quite shallow for this stretch. However, good weights have come from this peg in the past so I was filled with enthusiasm. Brian, Bill, Paul and Leigh legged it up to their respective swims, all pegged in the 30's and any one a winner.

Bob had drawn in the same section as me on peg 8, not far from Hippie, who was busy dishing out the lowdown on past form and predicting where the best weights would come from. He wasn't far wrong except his advice to Bill turned out to be a bit duff. After 4 hours into the match Bill instinctively changed tactics from groundbait feeder to maggot feeder and it wasn't long before he made contact with the quarry. At the final whistle Bill had amassed a comfortable 18lb-15oz, which was enough to secure second place. Leigh did us proud by taking 3rd spot with 13lb-7oz of bream and I managed a section win with 7lb-5oz. The other lads helped the team to climb the leaderboard with good backing weights. However, Mike Marsdon of Pewsey proved unstoppable and came out the clear winner with 41lb-6oz of bream.

It was a great team performance from the Legion finishing second overall with 49lb-4.5oz to Pewsey Anglers' 63lb-6oz. Third was Airsprung AA with 33lb-7oz, followed by Chippenham AA with 29lb-9oz and finally Bath Spartans with 9lb-3oz. Bill Turner and co announced the match would run again next year and hoped there would be more interest from other local clubs. The top 3 winners each received a "gold" medal for their efforts, as can be seen in the photo opposite, which adequately reflected their beaming smiles. Well done to all.

Forthcoming Matches

The next match is again at Barton Farm and is a 3-way inter-club with Airsprung and Frome Vale. The match on the 27th September, which was to be held

On Bridgwater Docks will now be switched to either Barton Farm or Stowford Meadows. This is because it is no longer legal to fish Bridgwater Docks, which is a shame because it holds a good head of bream and tench. On October 11th we're on the Crane.



Bill Croom and Leigh Wakefield with their winner's medals, and on the day Leigh officially became our latest Legion Club recruit having paid his full subs.

John Thompson - I've been visiting John at Whitchurch community hospital each week, so I'll be happy to bring you up to date on his recovery process and progress if interested. Just ask me.

New Uniforms - The new club clothing has finally arrived and although it looks smart, I'm not exactly jubilant about the quality of the embroidery to the logo. However, despite making my feelings known to the company they were quick to point out that they don't charge extra for embroidery to garments, only caps. I call that a cop out.

Something For The Weekend Ladies? As promised in the last newsletter, here's a surprise gift for you. All you have to do to redeem your gift is write your name on the voucher below and bring to the attention of your husband or partner. They will then gladly cough up some readies for you because they love you and it's their way of saying thank you for allowing them to go fishing every week. Simple!



This voucher is valued at £25.00 and expires 31st December 2025, so don't hang about girls. Enjoy!

All for now river warriors ☺